

Serial No. 10/538,906

Art Unit: 5805
Examiner: William Ray Harp

REMARKS

In response to the Patent Office Letter of May 28, 2008, the Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims. These amendments have now introduced subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner into the main claims. Accordingly, all claims in this application should now be found in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 2 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has presented an objection to the drawings. The Applicant believes that the drawings are in proper order. The reference character 19 designates only the plenum chamber. A change has been made in the specification to now indicate that the accompanying top sheet is sheet 23. This is illustrated in FIG. 9 of the drawings.

In paragraph 3 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has also objected to the drawings regarding the reference character 41. In this regard, the Applicant is enclosing herewith a copy of Fig. 7 in which the valves are now designated by the reference number 40. Appropriate amendments have also been made in the specification to indicate the valves 40. Moreover, one other minor change has been made in the specification to now recite hose 41 rather than pipe 41 so that the language is consistent.

In paragraph 4 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has objected to claims 1, 3 and 18 for the use of the term "its." Appropriate amendments have been made in claims 1, 3 and 18 to more specifically indicate the elements referred to. Accordingly, this objection should now be overcome.

In paragraphs 5-23 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has set forth rejections of claims both under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. It is noted that in paragraph 24 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3 and 11. In view of amendments now made in the claims, the rejection based upon prior art is now believed to be moot.

The subject matter of claim 2 has now been introduced into claim 1. Thus claim 1 should clearly now be found in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has now been canceled from the

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application. The dependent claims related to claim 1, namely claims 3-10 and 12-14 should now also be found in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has also indicated that the subject matter of claim 3 is allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 11 has now been converted into independent form and should thus now be in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 15, subject matter has been added to claim 15 substantially identical to that found in claim 2. Accordingly, with this introduction of the subject matter into claim 15, it is believed that this claim should also now be found in condition for allowance. Similarly, dependent claims 16-18 should be found allowable.

In order to afford the Applicant a complete scope of claim coverage, the Applicant also now adds claims 19 and 20 to the application. It is believed that these claims although new claims, are patentably distinguishable. Claim 19 in particular includes the subject matter of original claim 2 defining the membrane as curved in a direction transverse to the length of the container with the extent of curvature changing along the length of the membrane. Accordingly, claims 19 and 20 should be found in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments made in the claims and the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner, no further arguments are deemed necessary regarding the objections made by the Examiner in paragraphs 5-23.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any

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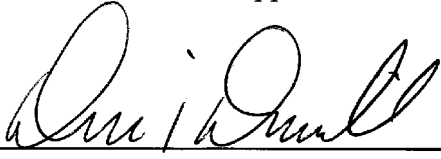
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remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof to our Deposit Account No. 19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,
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